

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

Proposition 50, Chapter 8 Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Grant

PIN	5298	COUNTY	Los Angeles
APPLICANT	Los Angeles, City of	AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$500,000
PROJECT TITLE	Upper Los Angeles River Watershed IRWMP	TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$625,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Develop an existing plan and execute an MOU among the Regional Water Management Group agencies; further clarify, prioritize and link water objectives with water management strategies and projects; develop data management protocols; prepare a programmatic EIR; prepare and execute a stakeholder and public outreach plan; and revise the current plan to fully comply with the state guidelines for such plans.

WORK PLAN - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has a detailed and specific work plan that adequately documents the proposal. Weighting factor is 3.

Score: 9

Comment: Although elements of the work plan are fully documented and the mechanism to evaluate existing projects is developed, the proposal inadequately discusses the mechanism for IRWMP development including refinements of objectives, courses of action to fulfill stated goals, implementation, and establishing criteria to evaluate success and/or failure of IRWMP components. The mechanism and mechanics of the planning are not fully documented. Documentation to support the budget estimates is not provided. The budget and the schedule are much too simplistic and no correlation between the budget and schedule tasks could be found in the documents submitted with the application. There are no clear tasks or schedule of deliverables.

DESCRIPTION OF REGION - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented a detailed and specific description that adequately documents the region. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 3

Comment: The proposal provided a detailed description of the region; however, it did not identify major water infrastructure within the region, nor did it delineate the agencies involved in the proposal. Details of social and cultural makeup were inadequate. The application provided no discussion of biological resources or habitat of the region. It is unclear—based on the title and the discussion provided—that the IRWMP will encompass the entire Los Angeles River basin. The basin seems to be split up into three "sub-regions." The need to separate the Upper and Lower portions of the Los Angeles River does not appear to be related to improved water management.

OBJECTIVES - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented detailed and specific planning objectives. Weighting factor is 2.

Score: 8

Comment: The applicant listed major objectives for the region that are consistent with statewide priorities and appear to be very relevant for the region. The proposal established ranking criteria to evaluate proposed projects and how they contribute to the statewide priorities. The applicant does not identify how these various components will be incorporated into the IRWMP or how they will be applied to the entire watershed.

INTEGRATION OF WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented how water management strategies will be integrated. Weighting factor is 2.

Score: 6

Comment: The proposal clearly identifies various water management strategies, but does not demonstrate how the various components will be integrated as a regional solution. The proposal did not rationalize or document how the various strategies will work together in a synergistic manner to improve water management.

IMPLEMENTATION - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately detailed plan implementation. Weighting factor is 2.

Score: 6

Comment: The implementation schedule is unclear. The proposal discusses a general schedule and implementation strategies, but relies on the development of the IRWMP to define the institutional structure needed to ensure implementation. The application does not have a developed mechanism or process to allow for monitoring the performance of IRWMP implementation or modifications to the IRWMP. These components will be developed as the IRWMP is finalized. It is unclear how the success of the IRWMP will be monitored or quantified.

IMPACTS AND BENEFITS - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately presented and documented the impacts and benefits of the Plan. Weighting factor is 2.

Score: 6

Comment: The proposal will rely on the development of a Programmatic EIR to address and analyze the impacts within the region and adjacent areas and for compliance with CEQA. The proposal has an established ranking criterion for the various projects listed, but does not indicate how these project contributions will be coordinated to address the regional needs and objectives. Benefits of the regional planning were inferred from the discussion in the objectives. Impact and benefits for the region as results of development of the IRWMP were not adequately covered.

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DATA AND TECHNICAL ANALYSIS - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented detailed and specific data and technical analysis components of the proposal. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 4

Comment: The proposal identified a scoring criterion to be used in evaluating the various projects listed and the global need for consistent data and uniform technical analyses, but does not provide documentation of what those standards might consist of and how an individual project will contribute to the overall needs of the region. The applicant provided a long list of previous studies that they should be able to tie into the IRWMP.

DATA MANAGEMENT - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented detailed and specific data management procedures. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 2

Comment: The proposal provided limited discussion in the work plan section and does not convey the mechanism to be used for managing data. The proposal does not identify a process for gathering and managing data from development and implementation of the IRWMP or how it will support statewide needs. The proposal only indicates that these goals will be achieved. The applicant states that requested funds would be used for the development of a comprehensive region-wide monitoring program to pull together all the current monitoring efforts. Data would be made available through the Los Angeles Stormwater website.

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented stakeholder involvement concerns. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 3

Comment: The proposal identified existing stakeholder involvement; however, it does not detail the organizational structure or mechanisms. The applicant describes their efforts to date, but does not outline the processes. It appears that the applicant has been very active, but the applicant did not convey that the stakeholder involvement process has branched out beyond their typical venues. It appears that the IRWMP has been discussed at all of their standard meetings, but it has not extended down to the lesser involved organizations. The proposal does not identify a process for identifying and including additional stakeholders. The proposal does not address environmental justice concerns.

DISADVANTAGE COMMUNITIES - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented disadvantaged community concerns. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 2

Comment: Although the proposal has a fairly detailed description of the region with respect to economic distribution, it does not indicate if the DACs are included in the planning and how the individual project will directly benefit the DACs. The proposal fails to document water supply and water quality needs of the DACs. Furthermore, it fails to state whether the IRWMP and associated projects will directly benefit DACs. The proposal did indicate that outreach effort will be directed to the general community organizations, but no specifics were given. The proposal requests for consideration are based on generalities and indicate that DACs will be actively involved and their problems addressed.

RELATION TO LOCAL PLANNING - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented the Plan's relationship to local planning efforts. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 3

Comment: The proposal provides a detailed list of existing local planning documents and identified projects, but it does not demonstrate how they relate to the IRWMP and what the dynamics between the two levels of planning will be, except for a common lead agency that would apply and manage funding from the State. The proposal also included a detailed discussion of local planning efforts, especially within the applicant's different departments.

AGENCY COORDINATION - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented agency coordination issues. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 3

Comment: The applicant has existing coordination with multiple agencies, but the proposal does not adequately discuss how those relationships will play a role in IRWMP development. The proposal identifies that the region has existing local, State, and federal agency coordination and cooperation, as evident from the formation of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel River Watershed Council, and will rely on it to coordinate the IRWMP. Facilitation and coordination of local land-use planning decision-making, State, and federal regulatory agencies will utilize this venue. No description of the existing framework was provided. The work plan also identifies the need to create and execute MOUs with regional groups, which may indicate that no regional framework has been developed. The application should coordination with other proposals for the Los Angeles River, PINs 4762 and 4896.

TOTAL SCORE: 55